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**ASPARAGUS GETS
COSY WITH POTATOES
ROASTED VEGGIES GO
UP A NOTCH** {page 26}



**RAMPING UP
SECURITY
SHEEN'S EX
'SCARED'**

{page 16}



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Thursday, March 31, 2011
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Team. Solidarity



► Halifax goalie Frederic Piche is consoled by teammates Gabriel Desjardins (21) and Martin Frk (91) following the Mooseheads' 4-2 loss to the Montreal Juniors last night at the Metro Centre. The Juniors swept the Mooseheads 4-0 to move on to the second round of the QMJHL playoffs. Story, page 27.

RYAN TAPLIN/METRO

Mooseheads make quick playoff exit

Seven schools to stay open

► More than 120 people attend school board meeting last night to hear fate of dozen schools ► Final decisions for those facing review to be made in March 2012



ALLY THOMSON
HALIFAX@METRONews.ca

Claps and cheers were heard by supporters of seven schools taken off the list for review and possible closure at a long-running Halifax Regional School Board meeting last night.

But supporters of five others schools still up for review did not share the same enthusiasm. Those students could still be funnelled into existing schools or attend newly constructed institutions.

Prior to last night's debate that lasted until just before midnight, board member Sheryl Blumenthal-Harrison — speaking out of order — moved to put no schools up for review. She was voted down.

During a recess, Blumenthal-Harrison addressed the packed house, stating she would not resign as she indicated at a public submissions meeting on Tuesday. She said she was "staying to fight."

"They're a bunch of cowards," she said, referring it seemed to some board members.

How the board voted

► Still facing possible closure 5: Central Spryfield Elementary; Prince Arthur Junior High; South Woodside Elementary; Gertrude Park; Sackville Centennial.

► No longer facing closure 7: Atlantic View Elementary; Hillside Park; St. Joseph's — Alexander McKay Elementary; Terence Bay Site; Upper Musquodoboit Consolidated Elementary; Sambro; Caudle Park.

"There have been political issues interfering with the original list that was presented to us weeks ago," she added, highlighting St. Mary's and Shannon Park Elementary schools.

The 12 schools facing a possible review were selected based on declining enrolment, aging facilities, overcrowding, among other factors.

Last night was the first step in the year-long review process. Senior staff will now create impact assessment reports for the five schools still facing closure that will go to public debate.



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Sugarloaf Mall

Edmundston
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Fredericton
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📌 Hockey legend Hayley Wickenheiser called university to express concern over decision to sack team 📌 Canadian Tire logos will appear on jerseys



► Members of the Saint Mary's University women's hockey team have a laugh as they wait to pose for a group photo at the Alumni Arena yesterday.

SMU women's hockey back in business



JENNIFER TAPLIN
@METRONEWS.CA

An apology and a sponsorship worth \$60,000 — not a bad day for the Saint Mary's University women's hockey team.

"I want to apologize to you personally and to the coaches as well. In the end I take full responsibility for it because I'm the president of the university," Colin Dodds told the team yesterday.

Rallies and national outrage over SMU's decision to

"What you guys do for the community ... the youth development is great."

BILL WHITING, OWNER OF CANADIAN TIRE ON QUINPOOL ROAD

cut the women's hockey team last week led to a unanimous vote by the board of governors on Tuesday night to reinstate the team.

The team assembled on the Alumni Arena's ice at Saint Mary's for a press conference to announce a sponsorship of \$60,000 from Canadian Tire.

"If there is a silver lining for this, it's raised the profile for women's hockey not

just here, but across Canada," said Dodds, who received a lot of flak over the issue.

Team veteran Sarah Maynard, 21, said the apology felt good.

"It definitely felt a lot better hearing it right from him. I could really tell he cared and he was sorry," she said. "Personally, that meant a lot to me."

Plus the corporate sponsorship provides stability

for the team, she said, at least for the short term.

Lisa Jordan, the team's coach, said she's happy her team doesn't have to carry the entire burden of the budget crunch.

"We're in this together because that's what this is all about."

Just because women's hockey doesn't attract a rink full of spectators doesn't mean it should be cut, said Steve Sarty, the school's athletic director.

"They are significant role models, and we certainly heard that loud and clear."

Damage has been done: Coach

It will take years for the women's hockey team to recover from the damage of the past two weeks of upheaval, said Lisa Jordan.

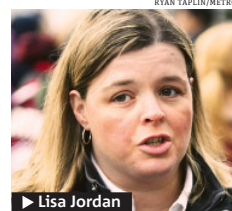
"Hopefully the damage will be minimal, but I think everyone expects it will take some time to bring the team back to the level of competitiveness we shared in the past few years," the club's head coach said yesterday.

Saint Mary's is trying to repair its reputation but it might make some impact on new recruits.

Sarah Maynard said she will rejoin the team next year but is not sure about many of her teammates.

"It's hard because everyone's on their own page," she said. "We'll see in the next few weeks what girls' decisions will be."

● JENNIFER TAPLIN



► Lisa Jordan

Not easy to spread cuts around: AD

Cutting one varsity team instead of trimming them all made the most sense at the time, said Steve Sarty, Saint Mary's University athletic director.

"To cut all the sports team weakens the whole department and the fact of the matter is most of the sports teams run right on budget," he said yesterday.

● JENNIFER TAPLIN

1
news



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Music legend Robbie Robertson gets personal on his first album in 13 years. Video at metronews.ca.



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There are 22 Relay For Life events taking place across Nova Scotia in June. Your local HRM events are:

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Enfield/Elmsdale District Lions Club

SACKVILLE, JUNE 10
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► Premier Darrell Dexter and Finance Minister Graham Steele speak with reporters.

Third assembly to be dominated by budget talk

► House of Assembly to reopen today ► Opposition sets their legislative agenda, Dexter says he'll work with them



ALEX
BOUTILIER
@METRONEWS.CA

The spring session began a little early yesterday, with all three provincial parties preparing for the third sitting of the 61st general assembly of Nova Scotia.

The session will begin with the speech from the throne, delivered by Lt.-Gov. Mayann Francis today at 2 p.m.

Finance Minister Graham Steele's third budget — and perhaps most important — is expected to dominate the conversation for much of the sitting.

"This is going to be a budget session," said Premier Darrell Dexter yesterday. "What we're going to demonstrate is we set a plan to deal with the finances of the province and that plan is working."

"My commitment to both the (opposition) leaders was simply to say 'send me (legislation)'. We're not going to poach it and bring it in ourselves."

PREMIER DARRELL DEXTER

Dexter also listed several oft-cited irons still in the fire, including the Lower Churchill deal between Nova Scotia Power and Nalcor, the province's economic development strategy, and the efforts made in reforming the way health care is delivered in the province.

Earlier in the day, Progressive Conservative Leader Jamie Baillie, now with one sitting under his belt, held a press conference at Province House to

unveil his party's legislative agenda for the coming season.

Chief among the items was his Modernizing Government Act, first touted earlier this year. He also intends to release a Balanced Budget Act, which would require the government to table balanced budgets and limit spending growth.

Liberal Leader Stephen McNeil said his party will focus on reintroducing some bills that will die on the vine when the current session is prorogued today.

"We're going to lay back on the table some of the ideas we had," he said.

McNeil included creating 20 tuition-free spots for medical students willing to work in rural areas, a local food bill, as well as legislation to aid farmers to ensure food security.

Legislation session

BUDGET 2011-2012

Finance Minister Graham Steele will table the government's 2011-2012 budget on Tuesday.

The deficit is projected to be close to \$370-million, as projected in his December budget update.

Due to the advanced announcements of cuts to university funding,

school boards, district health authorities and municipalities, we already know where about \$3.7-billion is going.

WHAT'S UP WITH THE CONVENTION CENTRE?

Nobody is sure. With federal politicians now in the early stages of an election campaign, the project will be stalled until at least May.

Developer Joe Ramia has already extended the deadline for a government contribution once.

But there's no guarantee whatever government is formed on May 2 will kick funding in for the project.

POLITICIANS ON TRIAL

While not technically part of the session, current MLA Trevor Zinck, and former MLAs Richard Hurlburt, Dave Wilson and Russell MacKinnon are to appear in Halifax provincial court on April 20 on charges stemming from the MLA expense scandal. ● ALEX BOUTILIER

ANTIGONISH

Professor died of blunt force: Autopsy

RCMP in Nova Scotia say a university professor who was murdered last week died from blunt force trauma.

Police spokeswoman Sgt. Brigid Leger said that was the result of an

autopsy performed on the body of 42-year-old Ottilia Chareka of Antigonish.

Her 47-year-old husband, Patrick Chareka, is charged with first-degree murder in her death.

Chareka was an associate professor at St. Francis Xavier University who was found in her home on March 16 and died later in hospital.

Leger said a weapon was seized, but won't disclose what kind of weapon was found.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

New policy for disclosure

► Information won't be released if thought to impede capture of an escaped offender ► Incidents not meriting release in press to be listed on website



ALEX BOUTILIER
@METRONEWS.CA

Department officials "may not have understood their responsibilities" in handling information in a high-profile case of a mistaken release, Justice Minister Ross Landry said yesterday.

Speaking at a press conference outlining a new disclosure policy for the department, Landry said there was a delay in releasing information to the public about Vernon Martell, an inmate who was mistakenly released from the Central Nova Correctional Facility in Burnside last November.

"(Justice officials) had information and the information all didn't get together in one spot right away," Landry told reporters.

Landry did not clarify what exactly the hold up was. But he said the new



"What they've set up today is a policy which is more than likely going to fail and cause this government more embarrassment."

LIBERAL JUSTICE CRITIC
MICHEL SAMSON



► Justice Minister Ross Landry speaks with reporters in this file photo.

No released

Information will not be released, according to the new policy, if it will "impede capture, impede police investigation or put victims at risk."

► Landry said releasing information concerning where an escaped offender is thought to be might tip off said offender that police are looking for them.

privacy administrator."

All information released will have to be signed off on by the deputy minister. This process is expected

to speed up the release of information to the public. No timeline for releasing information, however, is included in the policy.

"One can be implied that as soon as we become in possession of (information), and are in a position to release it, it will be released," said Landry.

"I'm saying it." As an example of how the new policy will work, Landry pointed to a press release issued on Tuesday concerning a man who briefly escaped custody from an Eskasoni court.

The man was eventually convinced to turn himself back in to authorities.

Harper heads to Halifax today

Prime Minister Stephen Harper will be in Halifax today to make a morning campaign announcement.

A release from the Conservative party said the announcement will be made at 10 a.m. and he would be joined by local Conservative candidates.

Harper will then travel to St. John's to announce support this afternoon for the \$6.2-billion Lower Churchill hydroelectricity project, says a government source.

The source said the prime minister will announce

\$375M
Newfoundland and Labrador, along with Nova Scotia, has been seeking a loan guarantee of \$375 million for a subsea power cable connecting the two provinces.

nounce support for the construction of the subsea cables but it may not necessarily be in the form of loan guarantees.

► METRO/WITH FILES FROM
THE CANADIAN PRESS

More cargo moving in Stanfield

Air cargo processed at Halifax Stanfield International Airport went up 5.7 per cent from 2010 compared with 2009.

A release says the increase was due in part to the opening of the airport's new multi-tenant cargo facility last June.

The airport is forecasted a seven per cent cargo jump for 2011. ► METRO

Still time before grass fields open

The weather may be getting warm, but the municipality says it will be "some time" before HRM's grass fields are open.

A release issued yesterday says maintenance work needs to be done on the fields to get them ready. They also say using the fields before they are ready can cause turf damage and delay their opening. ► METRO

Fast.

Bell Aliant

Tuition set to go up at Saint Mary's University

► SMU's balanced budget is \$107 million with \$4 million left aside for capital projects

Saint Mary's University is raising tuition next year and other universities will likely do the same.

SMU's board of governors voted in favour of a three per cent tuition hike — the highest allowed — for all students.

Undergrad tuition will

be \$5,750 next year, which is an extra \$170.

The province announced in January cutting \$14 million in grants to universities.

"The province's cut to us was equal to about \$1.5 million plus there are increases to heat, lights, and

salaries," said SMU spokesman Steve Proctor, adding the university had a \$3 million surplus last year.

It also means 11 jobs will be left unfulfilled, or reorganized and left open. All departments had to find about five per cent in cost reductions.

"Because we understand the challenge that the three per cent will create for some students, the budget also includes an extra \$110,000 of student financial aid," Proctor said.

The news made its way around campus yesterday. "Unless that money is

going to buy hand soap and towels for the bathrooms in residence then I feel it isn't necessary," said SMU student Nora Conboy.

Fellow student Julia Martin said a minor increase is manageable.

● JENNIFER TAPLIN WITH FILES
FROM LAURA WARREN

Dalhousie

► **Vote** Dalhousie University's board will vote on any increases to fees during their meeting on June 21.

Flight changed altitude to avoid another plane: Report

A Transport Canada report says a Provincial Airlines pilot changed altitude on Monday to avoid a Jazz flight over Newfoundland.

The aviation occurrence report says the pilot of the Provincial Airlines Dash 8 en route from St. John's to Deer Lake descended to 15,000 feet based on information from its collision avoidance system.

The Provincial Airlines flight had been level at 16,000 feet in airspace.

The report says the Jazz

Clearance

► **Jazz** A spokeswoman for Jazz says the crew adhered to the descent clearance and reacted "quickly and appropriately" when they received notification from the aircraft's warning system.

Canadair Regional Jet travelling from Halifax to Gander was given clearance to descend to 17,000 feet, but its autopilot was not able to level the aircraft and it continued below the clearance altitude.

No injuries were reported.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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PHILIP CROUCHER/METRO



► Two officers at the scene of yesterday's standoff at an apartment building in Dartmouth.

Police standoff in Dartmouth ends peacefully

► Dozen police officers were on scene ► Several tenants at apartment awoke to find situation unfolding

LAUREN WARREN
HALIFAX@METRONEWS.CA

A 31-year-old man has been released without charges following a standoff with police yesterday morning at an apartment building in Dartmouth.

Around 8:50 a.m., Halifax Regional Police say they responded to a call about a dispute between a man and a woman at 275 Windmill Rd. It was believed the man had a gun. "We heard there may be a weapon so we sent out our emergency response team," said police spokesman Const. Brian Palmetter.

About an hour later,

A tenant's story

► A tenant of the apartment said police told him to exit the back side of the building during the standoff, away from Windmill Road.
► "I didn't hear or see anything," the man told reporters. "I woke up and looked out the window and saw all these cop cars."

police say the woman came out from the apartment, but the man remained inside.

Officers, some of whom were armed, surrounded the building as the man stayed inside the apartment.

Then at 11:23 p.m., police had the man in custody. He was handcuffed and taken by officers into a waiting police paddy wagon.

He was later released and no charges were laid against either him or the woman.

"The conditions that he was originally arrested on had been changed, so he's been released without charges," Palmetter said late yesterday.

There were no injuries and no weapons found on scene, he added.

"I think it was handled perfectly well, with public safety being the foremost concern," Palmetter said of the response.

'Wanted List' man turns himself in

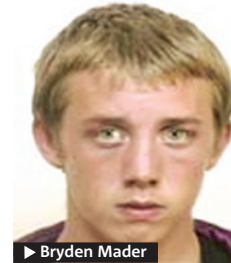
SUBMITTED

And then there were seven.

Less than 24 hours after going public with its new "Wanted List" of people with outstanding arrest warrants, Halifax Regional Police have arrested one of the eight they were looking for.

Police say Bryden Grant Mader, 19, turned himself in to New Glasgow police yesterday morning and was to be transported back to Halifax to attend court.

Mader was wanted for carrying a weapon and failing to attend court.



► Bryden Mader

The first bi-monthly list posted online initially included seven men and one woman, ranging in age from 19 to 55. Police say a

Want the list?

► The list is posted at halifax.ca/police/HeatList

new list will be created every two months.

Charges on the initial Outstanding Warrants Arrest List include alleged offences such as impaired driving, drug trafficking and theft.

Police are warning the public to not approach any of the individuals on the list. ● METRO

Bylaw to be reviewed after dog mauling

Yarmouth town council will discuss its dog bylaw after a woman was mauled last week by a dog in the

community.

A 45-year-old woman was attacked by what witnesses described as a large terrier-type dog in a parking lot behind a tobacco shop in town.

Coun. Ken Langile says he has been overwhelmed with phone calls, emails and Facebook messages about the incident.

He says the town needs

to better enforce its dog bylaw.

RCMP say two officers tried to pull the dog from the injured woman and then shot the animal.

The woman sustained head and upper torso wounds and was being treated at the Queen Elizabeth II Health Sciences Centre in Halifax.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Officers nab impaired drivers

Close to 50 people in HRM were charged with impaired driving by police in February.

Police say 43 men and six women were charged in total, ranging in age from 20 to 55. All but two cases involved impairment by alcohol, police say. The other two were drug impairment.

Nine cases were identified because of collisions. Another 18 were a result of calls by concerned citizens and 22 were identified by police.

● METRO

Teen charged in car rollover

A 17-year-old male from St. Margarets Bay is facing several charges after a car accident on Highway 102 near Fall River early yesterday morning.

Halifax RCMP say a Black Acura had rolled over around 12:30 a.m., and when officers arrived, three people were standing outside, while the driver was running away.

The driver later came out of a wooded area and was arrested. He was later charged with driving while prohibited and breach of probation. ● METRO

Lottery head calls it quits

The president and CEO of the Atlantic Lottery Corporation is stepping down.

The lottery corporation says Michelle Carinci's departure coincides with the end of her contract.

Lottery executive Brent Scrimshaw will assume the role of interim CEO today until the public corporation's board of directors finds a permanent replacement.

Carinci was head of the lottery corporation for 10 years.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Still fast.

Bell Aliant

NADBank FIGURES

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As total daily newspaper readership numbers hold steady, Metro Halifax continues to grow, according to results released yesterday by the Newspaper Audience Databank (NADbank).

Metro Halifax now reaches 83,900 daily and 225,700 weekly readers in the Halifax EMA, according to the 2010 NADbank results.

In comparison to 2009 results, this represents an increase of 19,300, or 30 per cent, daily readers

and 42,800, or 23 per cent, weekly readers.

Greg Lutes, publisher for Metro Halifax, said: "The three-year growth trend now shows us reaching nearly 84,000 readers daily in HRM, this is very gratifying."

"For Metro Halifax to have the highest market penetration of any free daily in Canada, at 44 per cent, is truly amazing."

"I believe our strong performance speaks to the relevant local content we are producing, which is an integral part of our national format, and our aggressive distribution plan."

"Metro will continue to deliver exceptional value to our advertising partners who have demonstrated their commitment to us over the past three years."

● METRO

PM sure about F-35 costs

Stephen Harper stands by his cost estimate for the F-35 stealth fighters.

The Defence Department has said it will pay up to \$75 million US for

each jet, which the parliamentary budget officer has disputed. Harper says he's confident about the numbers he has been given.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Angry May warns she'll go to court



▶ Green party leader 'shocked' she's shut out of leaders' debate



MATT KIELTYKA
@METRO VANCOUVER

Federal Green party Leader Elizabeth May is determined to have her way.

Whether by stirring up public outrage or taking court action, May is challenging the TV networks that shut her out of an upcoming leaders' debate.

"The airwaves are not the private domain of the media consortium," May said in Vancouver.

"I'm shocked by this decision."

"Because of a programming decision, they've decided the Greens should

not be at the debate."

The Saanich-Gulf Islands candidate is hoping a public outcry will be enough to have broadcasters change their minds.

But she says she's willing to take her fight to court if she has to.

"What's at stake here are not the fortunes of the Green party, but whether

Canada has a full, healthy modern democracy," May said.

She added: "If we have to, we can get to court on an emergency basis to get a ruling before the debate takes place," said May, adding: "If we don't see a reversal, we will be forced to go to court."



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Gadhafi makes gains despite Western strikes

- Ground forces take strategic oil town from rebels
- Libya's troops adopt new evasion tactics, officials say

Moammar Gadhafi's ground forces recaptured a strategic oil town yesterday and moved within striking distance of another major eastern city, nearly reversing the gains rebels made since international airstrikes began.

Rebels pleaded for more help, while a U.S. official said government forces are making themselves harder to target by using civilian "battle wagons" with makeshift armaments instead of tanks.

Western powers kept up the pressure to force Gadhafi out with new airstrikes in other parts of Libya, hints that they may arm the opposition and intense

Flight or fight

Diplomats tried to persuade Moammar Gadhafi to leave without military force.

- Uganda appeared to be the first country to publicly offer Gadhafi refuge. A spokesman for Uganda's president told The Associated Press that he would be welcome there.
- Libyan Foreign Minister Moussa Koussa left Tunisia for London after a two-day visit shrouded in secrecy. The report did not say why, and a British official said the report was "the first I've heard of it."

negotiations behind the scenes to find a country to give haven to Libya's leader of more than 40 years.

Airstrikes have neutralized Gadhafi's air force and pounded his army, but his ground forces remain far better armed, trained and organized than the opposition.

Gadhafi's forces also have adopted a new tactic in light of the pounding airstrikes — leaving behind tanks and armoured vehicles in favour of a "gaggle" of "battle wagons": Minivans, sedans and SUVs fitted with weapons, a senior U.S. intelligence official said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Free. Killer



► Killer whale Tilikum, back, appears during a Sea World performance yesterday in Orlando, Fla. This was Tilikum's first public show since the 6,000-kilogram whale killed 40-year-old trainer Dawn Brancheau at the marine park in February 2010.

GERARDO MORA/GETTY IMAGES

Tilikum swims again

The killer whale that drowned a trainer last year at SeaWorld in Orlando is performing for the first time since the death. SeaWorld officials said Tilikum participated in the marine park's "Believe" show yesterday morning. Trainers remained out of the pool before a 5,000-person crowd at Shamu Stadium.

Blood donor rules change due to mad cow variant

Canadian Blood Services says it will begin excluding potential blood donors if they spent a total of six months or more in Saudi Arabia between 1980 and 1996.

It decided on the new policy after a probable case of variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease — the human form of mad cow disease — turned up in a Canadian resident who lived in Saudi Arabia between 1980 and 1996.

A question about time spent in Saudi Arabia will be added to the blood donor questionnaire.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

3

Currently, people may not donate blood or plasma if they spent a cumulative total of three months or more in the U.K. or France between 1980 and 1996.

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Twins still missing

- New video evidence in the international search for the sisters affirms police theory about father's abduction
- Swiss six-year-olds are not seen in new images

The now two-month-old search for missing Swiss twins has turned up new surveillance images of the father who whisked them away and later killed himself, in which he is alone without the girls.

Investigators suggested yesterday that the new video and other new evidence lent more credence to the theory that when six-year-old Alessia and Livia Schepp disappeared on Jan. 30, their father Matthias Schepp drove them from their hometown in Lausanne on a one-way trip to the French island of Corsica, where the family had vacationed in happier times.

"The father's presence has been confirmed by a number of video images from surveillance cameras," investigators from Switzer-

land, France and Italy said in a joint statement. "The presence of the girls, however, has been confirmed only by witnesses."

At a news conference, police and prosecutors

A father's suicide

Schepp was separated from the girls' mother, Irina Lucidi, and killed himself Feb. 3 by throwing himself under a train in Cerignola, Italy.

► He had written a letter to his wife that day saying the girls were "resting in peace, they didn't suffer" and he would kill himself.

► Lucidi had emailed Schepp on Jan. 27 saying she wanted a divorce, after which he searched for firearms and poisons, police say.

from the three nations said they also had determined there were just four children on the overnight ferry that Schepp took from Marseille to the French island of Corsica, lending weight to witness accounts that the girls were with him when he drove his black Audi A6 wagon onto the boat.

He had bought three tickets for the ferry to Corsica, but just one for the voyage back a day later to the French mainland. From there, he drove to Italy.

Police said they had worked out more details of the father's four-day drive to Italy, but French police turned up no evidence the girls were with him after checking every gas station and hotel in the region around Montelimar where he spent the first night.



► Two months after the disappearance of six-year-old twins Alessia, left, and Livia Schepp made international headlines, the case confounds Swiss police who have run out of fresh leads.

"At this stage in the investigation, the Corsica trail remains the primary one," the investigators said in a statement issued by police in the Swiss canton Vaud.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Search to go on: Police

Investigators said yesterday that the search for the girls would go on despite the mounting costs or lack of new leads, responding

to criticism by the girls' mother earlier in the week, which she posted on her Facebook page.

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Now Japan fears for its seafood

► Nation that gave the world sushi is facing a new radiation worry ► But officials say it's safe to eat fish

Crisis-hit Japan faced a new worry yesterday: Contaminated seafood.

Fears about seafood spread despite reassurances that radiation in the waters off Japan's troubled nuclear plant poses no health risk.

Experts said radioactive particles are unlikely to build up significantly in fish.

But the seafood concerns in the country that gave the world sushi are yet another blemish for Brand Japan.

It has already been hit by contamination of milk, vegetables and water after the massive March 11 quake and tsunami.

In stores near Tokyo's Tsukiji fish market, fresh fish was selling poorly.

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Dr. Nick Bellissimo at 457-6295.



Mount Saint Vincent University

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HMV Canada fine-tuning its stores

► Redesigned chain to include more listening stations, interactive features ► Plans moving ahead as parent company struggles with more than \$200 million in debt

HMV Canada is getting a facelift to lure new business as the company's British owner considers selling off its 125 Canadian music and DVD stores.

The redesigned locations will sell a wider variety of products, such as T-shirts, video games and headphones, and will have new fixtures and colour schemes. The first two remodelled stores will open in the Toronto area at the end of next month.

HMV Canada president Nick Williams says the stores will offer more opportunities for customers to try out products before they buy.

"We will start to bring in





more interactive guest environments, and the video-game section allows us to do that quite positively," Williams said, adding that the company will expand its music listening stations to allow customers to test headphones available for purchase.

"There aren't many retailers that do that. Most of them just sell it off a peg," he said.

The company is also continuing to expand its non-music-related products to generate different sources of income and appeal to a broader group of customers.

The British parent is struggling with more than

Market moment

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Oil	Natural gas
	
-52¢ US (\$104.27 US)	\$4.339 US (+ 8¢ US)
	Gold contracts \$1,424.90 US (+ \$7.40 US)

\$200 million in debt as a result of increased competition from digital download websites. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Risqué. Business



► Inside out at the Toronto stock exchange yesterday. From left, Prostate Cancer Canada's Tammy Dean, senior co-ordinator of community events; Catherine Patterson, manager of marketing and communications; co-chairs Peter Shippen and Boris Novansky; Metro Canada president and publisher Bill McDonald; and Mark Brender, vice-president of business development of Prostate Cancer Canada.

MARK BLINKER

Caught with their pants down

You could say they hold no brief with cancer: More than 350 business leaders dropped their drawers for the cure last night at the second annual Pants Off for Prostate Cancer Canada. The innovative fundraiser, sponsored in part by Presenting Media Sponsor Metro Canada, was held at Toronto's Burroughes Building. One in six Canadian men will be diagnosed with the disease, and that number is expected to rise to one in four. Prostate Cancer Canada raises funds for awareness and education programs as well as advocacy and support of those affected, and research into prevention, detection and treatment of prostate cancer. The ultimate goal is a cure. For more information, go to prostatecancer.ca.

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Netflix has rivals 'shaking in their boots': Analyst

California-based Netflix is taking on Canadian cable, satellite, pay TV and traditional broadcasters by offering a growing amount of TV and movie content online.

"I am certain of one thing and that is cable

companies and pay-per-use broadcasters are shaking in their boots," says analyst Mark Tauschek of InfoTech Research Group in London, Ont. "Netflix is just so cheap, it's hard for them to compete."

While companies such

as Astral, Bell and Rogers are putting content across TVs, computers, smartphones and tablets, Netflix is doing that and more, Tauschek said, by allowing access to its service through game consoles that hook into televisions.

Netflix recently signed with Paramount Pictures to show all of its first-run films in Canada, content that typically would have been seen on the Movie Network and Movie Central pay-TV services from Montreal-based Astral Media

and Corus Entertainment of Toronto, respectively.

RBC Capital markets analyst Drew McReynolds said Astral and Corus's loss of Paramount to Netflix opens the door to more competition.


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IT'S NO LONGER A TAXING SITUATION

He says ...

JOHN MAZEROLLE



I've decided that from now on I will embrace tax time.

If I get stuck on a convoluted tax form filled with Rumsfeldian unknown unknowns, I will accept it as a moment of Zen, staring into an emptiness I cannot begin to understand.

If the government sends me a message that my taxes were completed incorrectly, I will welcome it as the annual tradition it is — a family postcard from Big Brother.

And if I get audited, then I shall enjoy the warm childhood memories of being curled up in the fetal position.

Taxes are all about how you look at them. I have thought on multiple occasions that, though death and taxes are two sure things in life, at least death only

happens once.

But, as tax season begins, I have revised my opinion as can be seen on schedule T1-ADJ T1

Adjustment Request Form, which is attached to your copy of Metro.

I am filing my change of heart under, "If you can't beat them, join them" because, like most people, I can't actually improve my tax experience because I don't understand my tax experience.

I fill out the boxes and get a response, yes, but it doesn't mean anything to me. I might as well

be shaking a Revenue Canada 8-ball that says, "All signs point to amount owing."

Sure, I can use an accountant, but that's just handing it off to a person who will give me advice that I will pretend to understand. I will then respond with a thoughtful "Uh-huh" that I hope adequately dresses up my actual thought, which is, "Huh?"

I can't cheat on my taxes, either. I've known people who would gladly write off condoms if they were sleeping their way to the top, but economic deception

"Taxes are all about how you look at them. I have thought on multiple occasions that, though death and taxes are two sure things in life, at least death only happens once."

has never been an option for me. I couldn't cheat on my taxes any more than I could cheat on an exam written in Sanskrit.

So all that's left is accepting my plight. I will think of my taxes in a positive light, because what other choice do I have? I see it this way now: I go into a tax office, I give a strange person papers that I don't understand, and in return that person usually gives me hundreds, sometimes thousands, of dollars in return.

Pretty sweet, right?

Right?

If this new approach doesn't work out for me, I'll be in the fetal position. It's my own choice of tax shelter.



Read more of John Mazerolle's columns at metronews.ca/hesays

Cartoon



Feline's powerful purr

Worth mentioning

A British community college has recorded a house cat named Smokey whose lawnmower-like purr hit 73 decibels, which is 16 times louder than the average feline.

Northampton College in central England said yesterday it received a request from Smokey's owner, Ruth Adams, to provide the equipment needed to file a world record application.

The college agreed, dispatching a team with special sound equipment to record Smokey purring in the comfort of Adams' home in the nearby village of Pitsford, about 110 kilometres northwest

Thunderous tabby



of London.

The 12-year-old grey-and-white tabby has already made several media appearances, with journalists comparing the purr to the sound of a Boeing 747 from a mile away. A video posted to the cat's website made it sound more like the cooing of an angry dove.

The recording has now

been submitted to Guinness World Records for vetting. Guinness World Records spokeswoman Amarilis Whitty said she was "anxiously waiting" for the recording to see if it meets the group's standards.

See Smokey's website at smokeythepurringcat.com.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Metro Minute with Halifax Rainmen

The Halifax Rainmen's season is on the line tonight at the Metro Centre.

The Rainmen host the Saint John Mill Rats in a game that will send the winner to the Premier Basketball League playoffs. The loser's season is finished. Game time is 7 p.m.

The Rainmen and Mill Rats are tied for fourth overall in the PBL stand-

ings with identical 9-10 records. The Mill Rats edged the Rainmen 98-95 Tuesday in Saint John to set up tonight's game.

If the Rainmen make the post-season, they would host the defending PBL champion Lawton-Fort Sill Cavalry Saturday at 4 p.m. for Game 1 of the best-of-three semifinals.

● METRO



► DeAndre Thomas of the Halifax Rainmen grabs a rebound in recent action.

It's easy to fall in love with West Side Story

► West Side Story to enjoy eight-week run at Neptune Theatre's Fountain Hall starting next week until May 29 ► Famous musical to have its own "stamp on it" here, actor says

BACKSTAGE PASS

JENNA CONTER
METRO HALIFAX



My musical career blossomed, peaked then burnt out within the school system, playing Rizzo in Grease being my crowning glory. Four performances, four standing ovations, one wardrobe malfunction. But, alas, I digress, and turn my focus to those with actual talent.

I grabbed some couch time with Liam Tobin and Anwyn Musico, who will be Tony and Maria in Neptune Theatre's upcoming production of West Side Story, running April 5 to May 29.

The honour of stepping into the roles of such an iconic musical is not lost on these young thespians.

"There's nothing better than doing a show where the music, scenes, everything is so strong," Musico says. "To come in and take the journey with these characters, it's a gift and a



► Anwyn Musico and Liam Tobin, who play the roles of Maria and Tony in the Neptune Theatre's production of West Side Story, rehearse a scene yesterday.

dream come true."

It's a classic story of forbidden love that continues to ring true today.

"The story expands across all generations and cultures because there's always ways that someone that you're not suppose to be in

love with," Tobin explains.

First there was Romeo and Juliet, then Tony and Maria, and one day, Liam and Jenna. But if the history of theatre has taught me anything, our love can never be. The restraining order wouldn't allow it.

Jenna ... He just met a girl named, Jenna. Sigh. What was I saying? RIGHT! Characters.

"You can't play a character that isn't a little bit of yourself so I have to bring myself to Maria and that in itself gives it a bit of a

spin," Musico tells me.

However, the iconography goes beyond the depth of the characters and into the choreography.

Just think of all the lives we'd save if wars were fought using only choreographed, dance-fighting.

2

scene

Scene in brief

After 12 years playing sultry screen vixen Samantha Jones on *Sex and the City*, Kim Cattrall says she's "letting it all hang out" in her new role as a has-been porn star. Cattrall gained 20 pounds for the title role in the indie film *Meet Monica Velour*, about a washed up, aging porn star living in a rural Indiana trailer park.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Not summoned to sing: Judge says suggestion that Willie Nelson sing in court was a joke



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Sheen's tweets are scaring ex

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► Source says Richards has increased security after threatening tweets by ex Charlie Sheen

After ex-husband Charlie Sheen's angry tirade against her on Twitter, Denise Richards has reportedly upped the security at her home, according to Popeater.

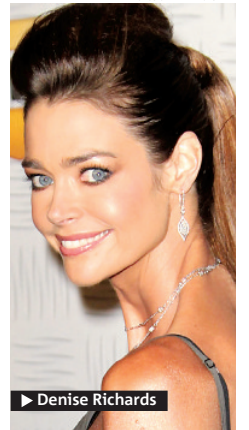
"She wants [daughters] Sam and Lola to have normal lives, but after the recent threats and verbal attacks, she has increased her security," a source says. "When you are dealing with a mad man, it's better to be safe than sor-

ry."

Sheen's over-the-top behaviour on Twitter reportedly has Richards worried.

"Denise has learned how to deal with the name-calling, but once you start tweeting pictures of yourself with knives and saying you wished someone would die it's a totally different game," the source says. "Denise is no longer angry — she's scared."

● METRO



► Denise Richards

Aniston to direct part of anthology

Jennifer Aniston is stepping behind the camera to direct part of Project Five, an anthology of short films for Lifetime TV, according to Deadline Hollywood.

Demi Moore and Alicia Keys are also taking the reigns for sections of the project, which addresses how breast cancer effects people's lives.

"Our hope with Project Five is to entertain, inform and inspire dialogue, research and prevention," Aniston says in a statement.

"We want these films to move people and empower those affected by breast cancer to stand tall through this challenge, which impacts all of our



► Jennifer Aniston

lives, no matter who we are."

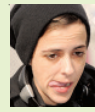
● METRO

Celebrity tweets



Bree Olson
[@BreeOlson]

I'd love to live in a cottage in the woods. Deep in the country. To just have all the bare essentials and live off the land. Day dreams



Samantha Ronson
[@samantharonson]

i love when the internet makes me a super hero- i was home at the same time i was at dinner. pix of me leaving dinner last night win. PROOF



Steve Martin
[@SteveMartinToGo]

At last, it's balmy in New York City. Almost 40 degrees Fahrenheit. Stripping down to T, shorts and flip-flops.

● METRO

Paris is happy with herself

Paris Hilton, the woman who perfected the art of being famous for being famous, says she has met all of her professional goals.

The heiress-turned-TV star, who was in Mexico on Tuesday to promote a new line of shoes, says she doesn't fear being overshadowed by Kim Kardashian or any other reality show rival with her own fragrance, B-movies, sex tape and autobiography, all by age 30.

"There's so many people out there who try to imitate what I do but I am the original," Hilton said

in an interview with The Associated Press. "There is nothing like me."

The socialite, who started her career as a model and has tried her hand in movies, fashion and singing, is currently shooting her latest reality TV show, "The World According to Paris," which will de-

but this spring on the Oxygen cable channel.

"The show's everything about my life, showing the business woman," Hilton said.

Hilton angrily dismissed questions about whether her life is superficial.

"I thought we were talking about the shoes," she said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Paris Hilton

The rebirth of crazy

► Want to be famous? ► Start by giving yourself an extreme makeover of Lady Gaga proportions

KENYA HUNT
LIFE@METRONews.ca
METRO WORLD NEWS

Last week, the Council of Fashion Designers announced that it will give Lady Gaga the Fashion Icon Of the Year award at its annual ceremony, which is the fashion world's equivalent of the Oscars.

The move was a final, official endorsement, of sorts, on the moment pop culture fashion seems to be in — that moment being a radically wild, crazy and, frankly, more interesting one.

It's old news for celebs to be cute and sexy (Britney

Spears) or cute and style (Carrie Bradshaw). We want it louder, shinier, spikier and weirder. Will the look make our jaw drop? Will it cause politically correct types to protest? No? Yawn, not interested. It's a new, foolproof formula that has replaced the add-honey-colored-hair-extensions-shiny-dress-and-stir equation that worked so well for Britney, Beyoncé and Rihanna in their early days. But (ho!) even Beyoncé and Rihanna have gone to the Gaga side (what are you waiting for Brit?)

We look at the transformation of some of your favorite divas.



Lady Gaga

► **Before:** Just one of Gaga's many unmemorable ensembles pre-Nicola Formichetti, the stylist who helped make her fa-

mous by dressing her in McQueen, that meat dress and other outfits that have gotten you talking.

► **After:** Wonderfully weird in that Gaga way we've all come to love.

Katy Perry

► The kind of showy get-up that only Russell Brand could love.



Nicki Minaj

► The Bride of Frankenstein meets Roberto Cavalli. What's not to love?



Rihanna

► Rih Rih's is rocking a much more interesting, wild style than in the past.



Ke\$ha

► Before the singer sported the same glam, rock look we've seen before. And now...there are no words.



Let's go crazy



► **Pint-sized crazy:** With Rihanna's team of stylists working for her, Willow Smith has all of the sartorial tools for pop stardom.

► **Real life crazy:** Blogger Susie Bubble has earned a huge following of readers who love her adventurous style.



Trend of the week

When you think about it, sleeveless coats and jackets are the perfect transitional weather solution. Layer them over denim, as these fashionable ladies did, for a fresh look that will keep you cool as you ease into spring. Acne has a very cool option. Or take the budget-friendly route and get all Edward Scissorhands on your favorite trench coat.



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THURSDAY, MARCH 31, 2011

Up and down

Keira Knightley

She revs up the sex factor in a skintight jumpsuit for Chanel's latest Coco Made-moiselle ad. Its director Joe Wright, who was also behind Atonement says, "That's one of the things I love about my job; getting to dress up Keira."



Kate Moss

Cooler wedding ever? Kate Moss and boyfriend Jamie Hince are reportedly planning to marry in a Glastonbury festival-style bash. Rumour has it they've asked The Rolling Stones, The Clash, Led Zeppelin and Kanye West to sing.



Paris

No Galliano successor at Dior and there's still a cloud of uncertainty hanging over other giant fashion houses such as Chloé and Balmain, thanks to Twitter gossip about the fate of their designers.

Royal Wedding Fatigue (RWF)

Kate and Wills' wedding day hasn't arrived and we're already over it. Matthew Williamson is, too. "I don't know why everyone ... is waiting to see what she wears. I'm, like ... 'Get over it,'" he tells The Telegraph. Guess she's not wearing him.



Beauty pick

CND Shellac

Just in time for spring, CND has added 12 new colours to its manicure range, Shellac. That's good news for all of us who were overwhelmed by the collection's initial limited colour offerings. The nail system promises, and impressively delivers, 14 days of chip-free wear. We tested the line out during fashion month and made it through 18 days of shows without a single nick.

● KENYA HUNT

CND

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CLEAN SWEEP



Tips for a spic-and-span spring

- ◆ April showers bring May flowers, along with some major spring cleaning
- ◆ Stephanie Legros, owner of Sort it Out Cleaning, offers some helpful tips and hints



The arrival of spring means it's time to really clean up.

If you've kept up with housework, it will only take a few tasks to have your home looking and smelling fresher.

Stephanie Legros, owner of Sort it Out Cleaning in Dartmouth (sortitoutcleaning.com), offers some of her insider tips for getting things spic-and-span.

Dust and Ash

First thing, says Legros, is to clean up from a wood burning stove, which coats everything from drapes to carpets, but "is especially attracted to glass."

Dry-cleaning the drapes, and washing the windows

Magic Clean Kit

Stephanie Legros' Magic Cleaning Kit:

- ▶ Lightweight, powerful vacuum with reusable bags (such as the small Shark, which costs less than \$100).
- ▶ All-purpose concentrate for cleaning everything (for example, a 1.5 L bot-

will make, "a 100 per cent difference," she says.

Walls and windows

Move furniture away from the walls to wipe down the baseboards where dust clings.

But for big jobs with lots of windows, she prefers a product called

tile of Simple Green makes five times that when diluted with water).

- ▶ Cream cleanser (Legros likes Vim). Use a degreaser for the kitchen, a cream cleanser with bleach for sinks and tubs and a floor cleaner for wood, tile and laminate floors.
- ▶ Powder cleanser (like

BonAmi. "It cleans like nobody's business - and fast."

For small jobs, Legros has a recipe of vinegar, a little rubbing alcohol, dish soap and water.

Carpets

Shake out and air carpet — porch rails are perfect for this.

Comet) for tiles, old tubs and toilets as well as removing marks on old linoleum.

- ▶ For glass cleaner, if you have sensitivities to chemicals, Legros recommends that you try one of the new biodegradable all-natural cleaning products with essential oil fragrances (such as Mrs Meyers, mrsmeys.com).

A small portable steam machine does a good job at spot cleaning stains.

Or spread the rug on the deck, and scrub with laundry soap and water, then hose down.

Doors

Front and back doors have taken a beating from

wet, salt-stained boots, so clean thoroughly: door frame, screen door and along the wall.

Don't forget the rubber-backed mat — vacuum and wash both sides.

Kitchen

For kitchen cabinets and their built-up grime, Legros uses a good degreaser and wipes it off with a damp cloth.

She says it removes everything and restores wood to its original finish, and really works on appliance handles where dirt really sticks. While you're at it, audit the freezer and toss out what's been there for a year.

For the dishwasher, one of Legros' tricks is to use orange Tang crystals, run through one cycle, to clean it.

Bathrooms

Showers, tubs and sinks are part of regular weekly cleaning, but shower curtains aren't and should be removed and scrubbed down. You might want to replace plastic, she says, but cloth curtains wash easily.

Pet Odour

To remove pet odours, Legros recommends baking soda sprinkled on the carpets, then vacuumed. You can add a few drops of essential oil to the baking soda first for a fresher smell.

Airing out

Replace or wash furnace filters, and remember to turn the ceiling fan to counter-clockwise to push air down and create a stronger draft.



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How does your garden grow?

- Think of your lawn and garden like an outdoor living room ► Breathe life into your lawn this spring — aerate
 ► Compost is the best natural product you can use to help your garden come back from winter sleep



With spring finally in the air, it's time for a few garden pick-me-ups.

GARDEN

Gently rake gardens free of leaf mulch and dead branches — exposing the soil helps warm it up. Then, give the beds a nicely defined outline by digging a small trough along the edge of the garden, using an edger, which is a half moon blade with a long handle.

Next, mulch. Bob Sanford, who owns Clean Cut Property Services in Enfield, N.S., recommends "a good quality black double ground — it smells nice and makes any colour of shrub stand out." Work it into the soil with a three-pronged cultivator or garden trowel, and don't cover the shrub's crown. A

popular alternative to mulch is beach stone, which doesn't attract bugs and helps with drainage.

Add the compost you've been "cooking" over the winter as a natural fertilizer. If you don't have a compost pile, check the municipality for compost giveaway days.

Prune last year's perennials to make way for new growth (appearing from the root crown). Sanford, however, prefers to wait until there is bud growth "so you can see what's going to grow, and what's not."

LAWN

Rake first to remove branches, leaves and gravel. Check for moss, which Sanford says can be remedied with lime (using a spreader), which won't kill the lawn.

Once a year, it's important to aerate the lawn

(poke it with holes) using a metal-pronged aerator. Every second year, Sanford suggests re-thatching the lawn. You can either use a regular garden rake, a thatching rake, or Sanford's favourite — a power blade on the mower. "It tears up the lawn, looks awfully like a mud race-track," he says. But with proper fertilizer, and warm weather, the lawn will be beautiful. He says it's more effective to promote new grass than to kill weeds with fertilizer.

If you can't resist fertilizer, and the municipality won't allow chemicals, go organic. Sanford recommends Milorganite (human waste). Used just before rainfall — to dissipate the smell — he swears it will "green up a lamp post, and what it does to the lawn is incredible." It's also safe for kids and pets.



► Getting rid of last year's garden waste is the first step to making your outdoor space ready for spring blooms.

Outside clean

- Clean the eaves to allow rainwater to flow freely out
- Patch cracks in walks and retaining walls with cement (comes in bags or tubes)
- Pressure wash bricks, win-

dows, trim, doors, concrete, vinyl siding, driveway and deck floor

- Check mortar between bricks, including those below the grassline. You can DIY a few holes, but anything more should be tuck pointed by a brick mason. Cracks in

the cement foundation should be checked by a mason, though small ones can be fixed with products such as Quick Plug

- Determine if the trim needs painting. Pick a dry day — or week — to sand, prime and paint.

● ALEX NEWMAN

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Shaking out the winter hues

- Looking to chase winter out of your home? Choose spring colours
- Metro offers a few tips to bring spring into every room in your home



SHAINA LUCK
LIFE@METRONEWS.CA

The temperature outside might not feel quite like spring, but the new season is upon us. If you can't wait for the warmer days to arrive, speed things up by bringing spring inside your home.

Bring the blooms in

Fresh cut flowers bring a spring feel into any room. Suzanne Saul of Attica Furnishings suggests that hits of bright colours such as orange tulips against a light green background make a big impact.

"An unexpected place to put these is your bathroom, and it really helps to make the room feel seasonal and inviting," she says.

An inexpensive way to bring flowers in is to cut forsythia, apple, or cherry branches and place them

in water, forcing the blooms to come out early.

Go environmental

As part of your spring clean, Karyn McCombe, owner of Bellissimo! antiques, suggests using an environmentally friendly, lemon-scented cleaner.

"It's kind of doing double duty," she says, pointing out that candles with a crisp linen or grassy scent can be a great way to bring an outdoors feel to a room.

Even on a cold day, opening the windows for a few hours will get air circulating, says Sappho Griffin, co-owner of HenHouse, a Halifax home decor store.

"Go out and do your grocery shopping, hang out your duvet on the clothesline, freshen that up, and then come home and close your windows," she says.

Au naturel

Change window dressings,

rugs, and slipcovers to natural fabrics like linen, cotton and sisal that look natural and feel good to the touch. Popular colours to use are bright greens, neutrals like grey and white, and colours with a naturally faded or "worn" look.

A fresh coat

Consider repainting trims, mouldings and baseboards as a quick and easy way to make the room look better, says Griffin.

Throw a rug

Polypropylene indoor/outdoor rugs are a flexible way to bring colour into the home. Although they are synthetic material, these rugs can be put anywhere from a kitchen or mudroom floor to a deck or wharf.

"Because of the way they're made, they tend to come in very bright

colours. You might have a nice stripe, or a nautical look," says McCombe. "Even when it's not that warm, when you're looking out into your backyard and you see that on your deck it brings that springy feeling into your home."

Wrap it in paper

In areas that don't have windows such as bathrooms or hallways, try using mirrors or light colours. Suzanne Saul recommends wallpaper from local company Mushaboom Design, which features colourful abstract Nova Scotia landscapes.

Sweeping the green

Lastly, don't forget the yard. Give the grass and beds a good raking so that new flowers don't have to compete with old leaves. A beautiful view can be the fastest way to bring the outdoors inside!



► Fresh cut blooms are the perfect way to bring spring warmth into any room.

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Outdoor

- Where to find the best deals for your garden meals
- How to make your outdoors feel like it's indoors

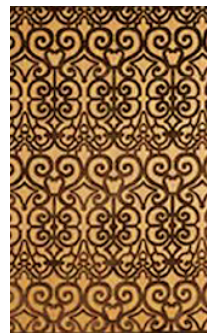
DESIGN CENTRE



KARL LOHNES
HOME@
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Soon, yes, very soon, we will be looking toward the outside of the house to expand our living and entertaining space.

This year's outdoor trends are all about adding colour and fun to the balcony, deck or backyard. Here's a roundup of fun, affordable items to help brighten up the outside without breaking the bank.



Scrolled garden gate-inspired outdoor rugs help to cover worn decking and offer comfort under foot. (Outdoor rugs are often overlooked for use inside the home; for a busy family with young children and pets, they are the perfect option and often less expensive than interior carpets.) Scroll Rug, Pier One.



Home Hardware's Tangerine Resin Side Table is always on call when grabbing a bite or putting down a drink when entertaining.



The metal Drink Butler from Home Depot is always on duty to keep your ice and party punch ready to be served. The butler can also be used as an herb planter and side table (above). Talk about versatile domestic help!

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decor: What's in

- Whether you need something for your flower bed, patio furniture or you just want something brand new
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Yes, the tacky gnome is back! Add some whimsy to your back yard with this famous outdoor fellow, Elfric Gnome, Statue, Home Depot.



Relax into these pillows that look too stylish to be left outside! Ventura Bloom Pillow, Crate and Barrel.



Add some bedazzlement to the back deck this summer with Solar Stone's LED Dragonfly stone. Home Hardware stores.



Get the party started with colourful shot glasses and tray from Stokes.

Outdoor pick

This spring, fire up a portable BBQ that is chic and convenient in splashy colours like tangerine.



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Ergonomically correct, stackable and super-fun colours make the Adirondack Chair from Home Hardware a big winner this summer.



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DINNER EXPRESS

EMILY RICHARDS
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For this Asparagus and Potato Soup, all the vegetables are roasted at high heat, caramelizing their sugars. They then are pureed until smooth and combined with yogurt, which gives the soup a creamy quality that belies its low-fat nutritional profile.

Lastly, prosciutto is crisped in a skillet to create a garnish that has all the appeal of crumbled bacon, without all the grease.

Preparation:

1 Place garlic on square piece of foil and sprinkle with 1 tsp (5 mL) water. Fold foil into a packet. Set aside.

2 In bowl, combine asparagus, potatoes, onion, oil, salt and pepper; toss to coat. Spread vegetables over 2 large parchment paper-lined baking sheets. Place packet of garlic in corner of one of the sheets. Roast in 425 F (220 C) oven, stirring occasionally for 45 minutes or until asparagus is soft and potatoes tender. Let cool for five minutes.

3 Meanwhile, in skillet set over medium heat, crisp prosciutto for about 5

minutes; set aside.

4 Transfer half of vegetables into blender and add 1 1/2 cups (375 mL) of broth; blend until smooth. Transfer to pot. Repeat using remaining vegetables and remaining broth. Warm soup over medium heat. Whisk in yogurt, tarragon, lemon juice.

5 Season with more salt and pepper to taste, if desired. Ladle soup into bowls and crumble prosciutto on top to serve.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
 EMILY RICHARDS IS A PROFESSIONAL HOME ECONOMIST, COOKBOOK AUTHOR AND TV CELEBRITY CHEF. FOR MORE ON EMILY, VISIT EMILYRICHARDSCOOK.CA.



► Potatoes, asparagus, onions and prosciutto are married in this hearty soup.

Ingredients:

- 6 cloves garlic
- 1 1/4 lb (625 g) fresh asparagus, trimmed, cut into 1-inch (2.5 cm) pieces
- 2 cups (500 mL) peeled and diced Yukon Gold potatoes
- 1 medium sweet onion, cut into 6 wedges
- 1 tbsp (15 mL) olive oil

- 1/2 tsp (2 mL) salt
- 1/2 tsp (2 mL) ground black pepper
- 2 oz (60 g) sliced prosciutto, chopped
- 3 cups (750 mL) chicken broth
- 3/4 cup (175 mL) non-fat plain Greek-style yogurt
- 1 tbsp (15 mL) minced fresh tarragon
- 1 tsp (5 mL) lemon juice

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▶ Josh Dollard

One last shot for Rainmen to oust rival Mill Rats

It hasn't taken long for the Premier Basketball League's first Maritime rivalry to heat up.

The Halifax Rainmen and Saint John Mill Rats will clash in the regular season finale tonight at 7 p.m. at the Metro Centre in a game that will send the winner to the playoffs and the loser to the off-season.

In a hard-fought five-game season series in which the Rainmen have won twice, the rivalry is everything the PBL hoped for and then some.

"The fans are seeing some really good basketball right now," said Rainmen owner Andre Levingston. "Everybody's getting their money's worth."

The Mill Rats relocated from Manchester, N.H., last summer. The Rainmen and Mill Rats have matching 9-10 records this season.

"They're playing good basketball, we're playing good basketball, and it comes down to beating a good team on our home court," Levingston said. "The loser goes home. What more do you want from a playoff-type atmosphere?"

The Rainmen had hoped to benefit from the unexpected return of leading scorer Josh Dollard, who had been out since the middle of March with a torn calf muscle.

But league rules dictated the Rainmen must release centre DeAndre Thomas in order to activate Dollard off injured reserve, and Levingston said he isn't willing to do that with Thomas playing well and Dollard not healthy enough to log starter's minutes.

● MATTHEW WUEST



For more on the league rules preventing Dollard's return to the lineup, visit metronews.ca/halifax/sports.



▶ Halifax Mooseheads forward Charles Bety collides with Montreal Juniors goalie Jean-Francois Berube last night at the Metro Centre. The Moose lost the game 4-2 and the series 4-0.

Moose bow out to sage Juniors

▶ Konrad Abeltschauser, Gabriel Desjardins score in Mooseheads' season-ending loss ▶ Goalie Frederic Piche stops 37 shots as Herd out-shot 41-34



MATTHEW WUEST
@METRONEWS.CA

The Halifax Mooseheads' first foray into the playoffs in three years has ended just a week after it began.

The Montreal Juniors completed a four-game sweep of the Mooseheads in the QMJHL's best-of-seven first round, finishing it off last night with a 4-2 win before a crowd of 3,209 at the Metro Centre.

The end was as abrupt as it was predictable, but the Mooseheads — who finished 57 points behind the Juniors in the regular season standings — had no regrets after two tight losses at home.

"It's definitely disappointing to lose in four but if we played the first two games like we played these last two games, I think it would have been a different series," said Mooseheads centre Brent Andrews. "They knew they were playing a team that wasn't go-

"We didn't come out the way we wanted. Maybe because we knew they were lower than us in the standings made a difference in our preparation."

MONTREAL JUNIORS CAPTAIN NICOLAS CHOUINARD, ON HIS TEAM'S PLAY IN THE FINAL TWO GAMES.

ing to back down and I'm proud of the boys."

The Mooseheads, who were outscored 11-3 in the first two games in Montreal, came back strong just 24 hours after falling 2-0 in a late-game heartbreaker in Game 3 on Tuesday.

End of line for trio of Moose

The careers of the Halifax Mooseheads' three 20-year-olds came to an end with last night's loss.

Forwards Charles Bety and Gerrard Grant and defenceman Pascal Amyot are the only players on

the Mooseheads' roster not eligible to return in 2011-12.

"That was a great game to play in ... These are the moments you'll really remember when you're older," said Grant, a Halifax native. "It was a great three years and I hope to see great things for the franchise in the next few years."

● MATTHEW WUEST

Juniors for a handful of odd-man chances.

Louis Leblanc finally cashed in on a shorthanded breakaway at 16:23 and that was the game-winner, with Philippe Lefebvre adding a third-period insurance goal with 5:09 left.

"We had some good momentum going there and on that power play, we just didn't bear down," Andrews said. "It was a lack of communication, lack of execution, and it really cost us."

The Mooseheads upheld their annual tradition of saluting the fans at centre ice after the game. The crowd returned the favour.

"We showed we have a lot of heart and determination, playing the fourth-ranked team in the country, second-best team in the league," said captain Travis Randell. "They definitely knew who they played these past two games and I think they're pretty glad this series is over in four and not any longer."

4
sports

Series highlights



1 Blueliner Konrad Abeltschauser scored three of the Mooseheads' five goals in the series.

2 Juniors goalie Jean-Francois Berube stopped 102 of 107 shots and enjoyed a 142-minute shutout string that ended last night.

3 Juniors forward Louis Leblanc scored a series-high four goals in four games.

● METRO

Crosby may not be ready for playoffs

► Penguins captain skating, but season remains uncertain ► Might not be enough time for him to get in game shape for post-season: Pens GM

Sidney Crosby is hitting the road with his Pittsburgh teammates again, but is not ready for prime time yet.

Despite recent speculation that his return could be days away, perhaps in time for the first round of the playoffs, Crosby climbing over the boards again during game action might not occur until next season.

Crosby will rejoin his teammates for game-day skates starting today, but it appears increasingly less likely the former NHL MVP will heal from a concussion in time to play again this season, no matter how far the Penguins advance in the post-season.

"The last thing we'll do with Sidney Crosby or any player is push him if he's not ready," general manag-

On the agenda

Crosby did not talk to reporters yesterday, but will today after the morning skate in Tampa. He will skate on his own tomorrow, and then rejoin his teammates for their game-day skate Saturday at Sunrise, Fla.

er Ray Shero said.

Crosby, sidelined since early January after sustaining two hard hits in as many games, isn't cleared yet to practise or for anything resembling contact — only to skate with his teammates on game days. Some days he will just work out off the ice, as he has been doing since he resumed skating nearly

three weeks ago.

Shero speculated that with the playoffs only two weeks away, there might not be enough time for Crosby to return for the post-season. He ruled out any possibility that Crosby could play in any of the Penguins' remaining five regular season games.

"Our captain is coming back any time soon? That is not our expectation," Shero said. "Having said that, I don't want to take hope away from the player, because he's feeling good about himself. But when I talk to Dan Bylsma, our coach, about a date, a certain date about when Sid might be coming back, the certain date might be in training camp."

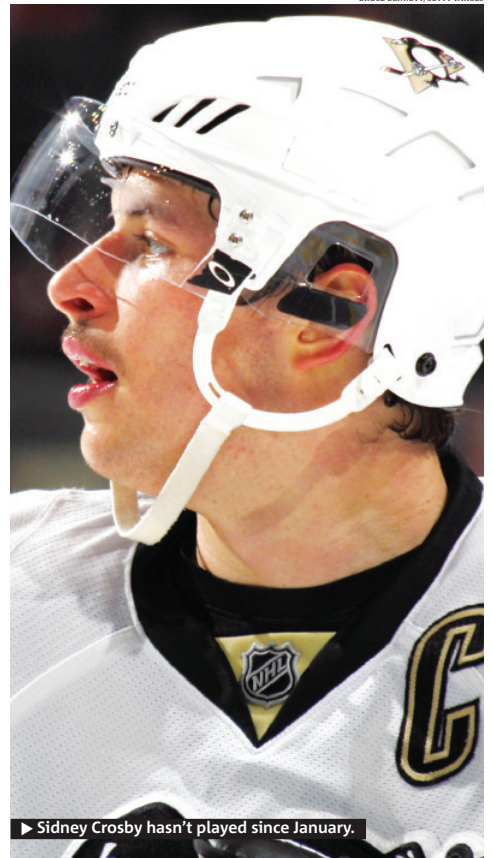
Bylsma said several more

steps await Crosby in his lengthy rehabilitation, including getting cleared to practise and for taking body contact. The Penguins' doctors are determining each step, and there is no timetable for any of them.

"We have no anticipation for when the next step is and where that might be down the road, if at all this year," Bylsma said.

"There is no strategic plan from myself or Dan Bylsma to reintroduce him in our lineup at any certain day or time," Shero said. "This is a complex injury. I think we're happy as to where he is in terms of getting back on the ice. His office program's continuing, which is good. That's really where we are."

THE CANADIAN PRESS



► Sidney Crosby hasn't played since January.

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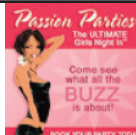
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Miscellaneous

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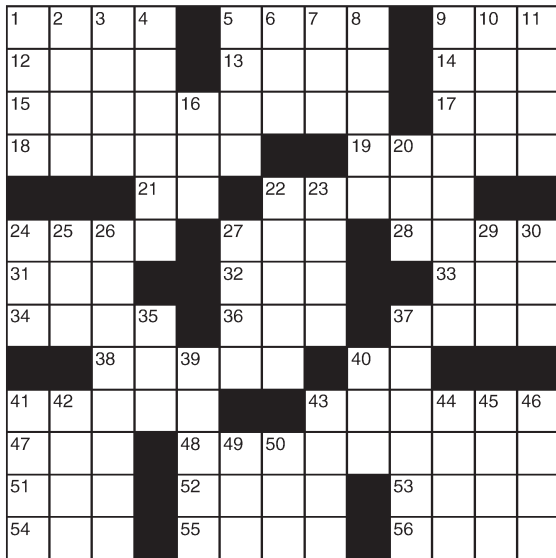
Crossword

Across

1 Teen's woe
5 Cole Porter's "Let's —"
9 "All My Children" ailer
12 Surveyor's map
13 Reed instrument
14 Sine — non
15 Tuba's cousin
17 Coffee vessel
18 Rap session?
19 Bit of flora
21 Tagged player
22 Clean the cook-ware
24 Intl. oil group
27 Ovine remark
28 Band's bookings
31 Sister
32 Mountain
33 "— Lazy River"
34 Never again?
36 Spelling contest
37 Mosque VIP
38 Agrees to
40 Either mate
41 About half of all adults
43 Show clearly
47 "The Greatest"
48 P.E. venue
51 H1N1 ailment
52 Future 19-Across
53 Beige
54 Scot's hat
55 "The Price Is Right" props
56 Collections

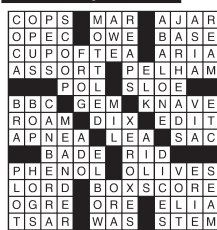
Down

1 "Planet of the —"
2 Aid for Sherlock
3 California wine

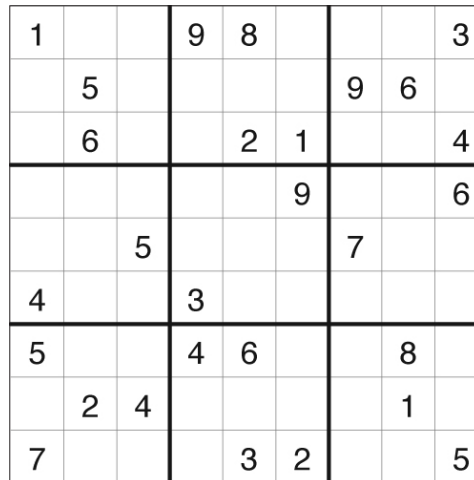


valley
4 Cultural, in a sense
5 Finished
6 Kimono sash
7 Debtor's letters
8 Beat
9 Fishtank
10 Char
11 Lacks the skills
16 Autumn mo.
20 Drag along
22 Red-tag events
23 Part of a superhero costume
24 Lennon's lady
25 Play on words
26 Warm praise
27 Infant
29 Coll. transcript
30 Our uncle
35 — out a living
37 Van Gogh painting
39 Uneasy feeling
40 Eggs
41 Float gracefully
42 Earthenware pot
43 Odd's mates
44 Pleasant
45 Rudely brief
46 Ostriches' kin
49 Verily
50 "Family Guy" daughter

► Yesterday's answer



Sudoku



How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

► Yesterday's answer

1	2	4	6	8	3	5	9	7
5	6	7	2	9	1	3	4	8
9	8	3	4	5	7	2	6	1
4	5	2	8	7	6	1	3	9
6	7	8	3	1	9	4	5	2
3	9	1	5	4	2	7	8	6
2	4	6	7	3	8	9	1	5
8	3	9	1	2	5	6	7	4
7	1	5	9	6	4	8	2	3

Send a KISS

Show some love! Send a note to somebody special at kiss@metronews.ca

Dear Trixx, thanks for the shoutout. Cuba is going to be a blast. 1 problem about the marriage thing, you're my niece. Call me crazy, but I think that's a little illegal and just plain weird. Love all you crazy girls!

Lunatic, we have this crazy rollercoaster type life an I couldn't ask for anything more. u are truly an AMAZING man in every possible way. ur dedication is my inspiration, never stop fighting for YOUR dream. Truly, madly, deeply, I love u forever & a day baby. BEAR <3

Barbie I hope this happy get-well note adds sunshine to your day and shows you that you're thought of in a warm and special way! xoxo YOURS TRULY, MUFFIN

I know we're young but I know this love is real. Looking forward to our future together. I love you. AMY

Today's horoscope

♈ Aries March 21-April 20

Everyone gets emotional occasionally, so why deny what you feel? Besides, the planets warn if you keep things bottled up inside for too long, you won't do your health any good.

♉ Taurus April 21-May 21

It would be nice if others would change their ways to accommodate your needs but it isn't going to happen and you know it. If there is something you want, the onus is very much on you to get it.

♊ Gemini May 22-June 21

Don't get involved in new situations without thinking about the potential consequences, first. A little caution in your affairs would not be a bad thing over the next 24 hours.

♋ Cancer June 22-July 22

Life is too short to waste time worrying about things that may never happen. Wake up to the fact that this is not a dress rehearsal — this is life. What can you do that will make a difference in the world?

♌ Leo July 23-Aug. 23

Others may not approve of some of the things you do, but that's their problem. Be true to who you are and don't be afraid to be the one who tries something out of the ordinary.

♍ Virgo Aug. 24-Sept. 22

Words come easily to you but they could also work against you, especially if you use them to trick people into believing things that aren't true. Why risk making enemies?

For today's crossword answers and for expanded horoscopes, go to metronews.ca

♎ Libra Sept. 23-Oct. 23

You have a lot to do today and if others can't keep up with your relentless pace, that's too bad. There are times you have to get on with life and ignore everything and everyone else.

♏ Scorpio Oct. 24-Nov. 22

Because there have been some difficult aspects over the past few days, you may be struggling to see what there is to smile about. There's plenty. For example, why not get working on your big summer plans?

♐ Sagittarius Nov. 23-Dec. 21

You'll make efforts above and beyond the call of duty today but they'll be worth it in the long term. Your future looks very rosy, but you must stick with your action plan.

♑ Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 20

It'd be nice to believe everyone you do business with is honest, but you know it's not true. Don't give anyone the authority to make decisions for you. That's asking for trouble.

♒ Aquarius Jan. 21-Feb. 18

If you come on too strong today, you could scare away someone whose friendship would have been good for you. Watch what you say and, more importantly, watch how you say it.

♓ Pisces Feb. 19-March 20

It may seem like someone is going out of his or her way to make life difficult for you but most likely you're overreacting. Don't say or do anything that may start an unnecessary feud today. SALLY BROMPTON

Caption contest



"Young man, it's fun to stay at the Y.M.C.A." MOSES

WIN! You write it!

Write a funny caption for the image to the right and send it to play@metronews.ca — the winning caption will be published in tomorrow's Metro.



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10CH3766

'10 Dodge Charger RT

SAVE **\$13,518**
 PURCHASE FROM **\$34,977**
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10CL6249

'10 Dodge Charger R/T

SAVE **\$8,133**
 PURCHASE FROM **\$36,477**
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10CL6454

'10 Dodge Challenger SRT8

SAVE **\$9,358**
 PURCHASE FROM **\$44,987**
\$344 BI WEEKLY **\$0** DOWN



10CL3808

'10 Dodge Challenger SRT8

SAVE **\$8,118**
 PURCHASE FROM **\$42,977**
\$329 BI WEEKLY **\$0** DOWN



10PA4063

'10 Jeep Patriot

SAVE **\$4,618**
 PURCHASE FROM **\$15,977**
\$125 BI WEEKLY **\$0** DOWN



10CP2255

'10 Jeep Compass 4X4

SAVE **\$7,668**
 PURCHASE FROM **\$18,977**
\$127 BI WEEKLY **\$0** DOWN



10ju0766

'10 Dodge Journey SE

SAVE **\$4,618**
 PURCHASE FROM **\$19,877**
\$156 BI WEEKLY **\$0** DOWN



10CA3677

'10 Dodge Caliber SE

SAVE **\$2,318**
 PURCHASE FROM **\$14,977**
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